



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

January 4, 1993

Docket No.: 50-282
and 50-306

Mr. L. R. Eliason
Vice President, Nuclear
Northern States Power Company
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Dear Mr. Eliason:

SUBJECT: PRAIRIE ISLAND UNITS 1 AND 2 SHUTDOWN RISK AND OUTAGE
MANAGEMENT INSPECTION (NRC INSPECTION REPORT
50-282/92-201, 50-306/92-201)

We are forwarding the report of the shutdown risk and outage management inspection conducted by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff from September 21 through November 20, 1992. The activities inspected were authorized by NRC Operating Licenses DPR-42 and DPR-60 for Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Units 1 and 2. At the conclusion of the inspection, the team discussed the findings with members of your staff.

The inspection team examined the adequacy of your dual unit outage planning and conduct to evaluate the degree to which these minimized the risk of initiating accident sequences during shutdown conditions. This inspection was conducted in two phases: (1) before the outage, with a focus on outage planning, and (2) during the outage, with a focus on the use of outage controls for equipment being worked on, equipment returned to service, and turnover of systems to operations.

The team found that your measures to minimize the risk of initiating accident sequences during shutdown conditions were detailed and comprehensive. The shutdown risk program was sound and appeared to be effective. However, the team identified a deficiency in the failure to follow procedures. In addition, the team noted that there appeared to be some confusion over the concept of equipment available to perform a safety function during plant shutdown versus operable equipment as defined in the plant Technical Specifications.

The team found that the plant staff was very knowledgeable of its duties and carried out the program competently and professionally. The presence and oversight of the plant management was apparent and contributed to the safe conduct of the outage. Among the strengths, of particular interest were; use of the work control center to minimize control room traffic, shutdown risk status boards at several plant locations, and the shutdown safety assessment training.

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The Executive Summary gives an overview of the inspection and the inspection report, and the appendices amplify the inspection effort and related findings.

No response to this letter is required. The NRC Region III office will issue any enforcement action that may result from this inspection.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790(a), a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room. Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, please contact me, Mr. Peter S. Koltay, or Mr. J. D. Wilcox, Jr. (301) 504-2967, of this office.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Jack W. Roe, Director
Division of Reactor Projects, III, IV, V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:

Inspection Report 50-282/92-201, 50-306/92-201

cc w/enclosure: See next page

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Mr. L. R. Eliason
Northern States Power Company

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Prairie Island Nuclear
Generating Plants Units
1 and 2

cc:

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